

Zechariah 22 – Battle of Five Armies – Jesus is Lord

Zechariah - 14
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Fixing Our Focus

- Zechariah's finale to this oracle contrasts:
 - Defeat, looting and exile of Jerusalem (Again)
 - Defeat, looting and destruction of Jerusalem occupiers
- Christ returns and claims Jerusalem as His by right of being King David's heir, rightful ruler of Israel
 - Fulfills first vision of Zechariah redeeming His people the True Jews (Fulfills promises to Jews since Abraham)

Opens With Defeat & Exile

- Jerusalem is invaded, ravished and half the people taken into exile
 - This is not the battle of Armageddon, because of the exile; therefore, it predates this battle by some time
 - This battle does not correlate with previous biblical invasions of Jerusalem nor with known past invasions
 - This probably occurs in early to mid-Tribulation'

Antichrist Declares Himself God

- Once Antichrist declares himself god in the third Temple he no longer needs the *False Jews* (Zc 1:30-39)
 - His forces occupy Jerusalem rooting out a large portion of the Jewish element; reminiscent of WWII
 - This is the Abomination of Desolation of Daniel
- Jews will have already desecrated their Temple (2nd) as described by Nehemiah, Malachi and Christ (Mal 2:7-12; Jo 2:13-18)

Christ Returns (Re 19:11-16)

- Return of Christ is described in Revelation; Zechariah describes His return to Jerusalem and Judah
 - He defends Jerusalem and Israel as their King
 - They recognize Him as Messiah (Zc 12:10-14)
- This occurs at the end of the Tribulation
 - Christ returns with His *army* of new covenant believers in their new bodies after the Bema Seat (Church) (1Co 5:10)

Valley of *Fresh Waters*

- When Christ touches down on the Mount of Olives it splits east to west (Mount moves north and south)
 - Becomes a source of *fresh* (living) waters flowing east and west; demonstrating His power and Lucifer's failures (Much of the world's water supply contaminated) (Re 8:8-11)
 - The *True Jews* run toward the cleft for safety (Christ hid Moses until He had passed by in His glory) (Ex 33:22)

Different Views of the Cleft



References to Joshua's Long Day

- Verses 6-7 discuss Christ's return as a *unique* (Only) day (Recalls Joshua's battle with five kings) (Isa 10:12-14, Re 16:10)
 - Excellent discussion of how Joshua would have used the words which we interpret as God giving Joshua extra day
http://www.biblestudy.com/bible/2000/genesis/genesis_1_21.html
 - Joshua was not asking God to stop the sun; he was using idioms asking for victory encouraging his people to continue the fight (Public prayer; prevent more storms)

Christ is the Day

- Remember, during this part of the Tribulation the sun and moon have been **darkened** (Isa 13:10; Joel 2:10-11)
 - Christ is *light* (glory) dispelling the evening referencing Joshua's battle (Eternity - New Jerusalem) (Re 21:22-23)
 - On this *unique* day there shall be no sunlight, cold or storms: all nature waits upon the Lord (Re 8:10-12)
 - Demonstrating His control over Creation

Christ is the Lord

- Zechariah states that when Christ returns He proves by these phenomenon that He alone is God
 - Lucifer vanquished for a spell (Re 20:13)
 - His people witness Him as *only God*, forsaking idolatry
 - As King He vanquishes those rulers who banded together to dispute His claim (Represented all peoples)
 - He is God over the earth by right of conquest & creator

Terraforming Complete (Ez 38:17-23, Re 6:12-17)

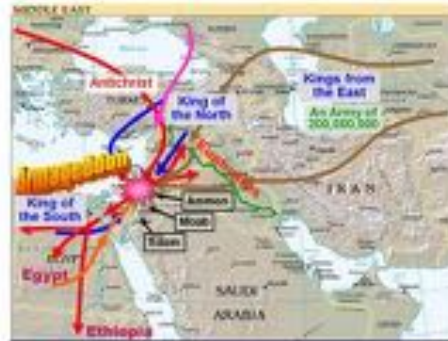
- Great Tribulation will be a demonstration of God's power over creation before men (Debunking evolution)
 - Tectonic plates merge forming one continent with all islands and mountains disappearing except one
 - Only mount remaining is Jerusalem, Christ's capital
 - Jerusalem shall be dedicated holy to the Lord
 - Jerusalem preserved for the Lord (Ref First Vision)

Who Are the Armies?

- Who are the four armies that come to battle at Armageddon?
 - North - Gog (Magog) (Ez 38:17-23)
 - East - Kings fording the "dry" Euphrates River (Re 16:12)
 - South - Kings out of Africa (Is 11)
 - West - Antichrist (Old Roman Empire reborn) (Re 13:1-8)
- These come to battle each other to see who rules world

Day of Christ's Return

- These armies represent the peoples of the earth and meet to challenge Antichrist whose HQ is Jerusalem
- Christ appears, defeats them and takes possession of the earth - Legally



Lord Cleanses the Land (Rev. 14:17-20, 19:17-21)

- The "plague" is actually a divine judgment that cannot be confused with any natural phenomenon (Korah) (Nu. 16:25-31)
 - Christ "speaks" and the bodies of all the peoples in these armies burst open, including animals (Return to ancient forms of warfare due to scarcity of resources)
 - Blood covers about 180 miles to a depth of 2-3 meters
 - Antichrist and False Prophet thrown into Lake of Fire

Jerusalem Spared

- Since Jerusalem is *holy* to the Lord the rebellious in the city are defeated by the *True* Jews complimenting the beginning of this segment
 - Jerusalem attacked - Jerusalem vindicated
 - Jews sacked and spoiled - Jews defeat and spoil enemies
- This opens the Millennial Kingdom, Christ as King is on His throne in Jerusalem

The Nations Judged

- We know from other Scriptures that the nations are judged based on their acceptance of the Gospel preached by the Jews during the Tribulation (Mt 25:31-46)
 - The goats are raptured into Hell to await final judgment
 - The sheep are welcomed into His Millennial Kingdom
 - The basis of judgment is salvation evidenced by how they responded to the Jewish missionaries' gospel {Faith}

Which Festival Most Important?

- Festival most violated by the Jews was the Festival of Booths which was not celebrated since Joshua until they returned to Judah from exile (Dt 16:13-18)
- It will be required of all peoples annually
 - Christ's birthday when He came to *tabernacle* with men (Ref: John Bap's birth) (<http://christianapologetics.org/articles/when-was-jesus-born/>)
 - Commemorates life in this creation while awaiting next

Penalties But No Force

- Those nations who do not come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Booths shall experience drought
 - Rain in Scripture is a metaphor for the blessings of God
 - When people dishonor God - He does not bless them (Isa 1:10)
 - This is the divine judgment {plague} reminding the people of their turning from God in their hearts
 - God wants worship from willing people (Is 23:26; Mal 1:6-8; 3:13-15)

Egypt Mentioned {Exodus}

- All Israel will be priests to the Lord serving the peoples coming to the Festival of Booths
 - All will sing the "Songs of Ascent" celebrating God's goodness of salvation and material blessings of the land (vs. 120-134)
 - Learning of the Lord that He is good, His ways just (vs. 14)
 - Partaking of the sacrificial meal with Him signifying His sacrifice that set them free from sin {His death for sin}

No Trader in His House

- This is a warning of the coming problems since the Temple is still two years from completion
 - Foreshadows the complaints God brings against them in Malachi and Nehemiah
 - Christ dealt with this issue during His ministry (Mt. 21:12-13)
- The Temple will remain holy and dedicated to its ministry under the rule of Christ the King & Priest

Warnings & Blessings

- Zechariah - Warnings & blessings for His people {Jews}
 - Rebuilding the Temple continues the work of teaching the nations of God's holiness, their sin & His salvation
 - Disrespecting the Temple disrespects Christ, trivializing His coming death and desecrating His message to man
 - First Coming: Lamb of God dying for sins of world (vs. 1:29-34)
 - Second Coming: Fulfills *all* promises to them and begins Millennial Kingdom {Final Dispensation}